REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-37 are currently pending, with Claims 13-19 withdrawn as directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 2 and 38-205 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1, 3-12, and 20-39 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-12, 20-29, and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1, 20-27, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0129268 to Maeno et al. (hereinafter "the '268 application"); Claims 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '268 application; and Claims 2-12 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are rendered moot by the present amendment to the claims. Claims 1, 20, and 28 have been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims. In this regard, Applicants note that each of Claims 36 and 37 have been amended to be directed to a computer-readable medium storing a program, while Claims 38 and 39 have been canceled.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus, comprising: (1) a code stream generating part configured to convert image data into two-dimensional wavelet

coefficients, quantize the coefficients, and code the quantized coefficients so as to compress the image data and generate a code stream; (2) an additional information creating part configured to create additional information concerning the image data; and (3) an additional information embedding part configured to embed the created additional information into the code stream as a code in an off-rule zone, which is not decoded by a JPEG 2000 standard rule. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the image processing apparatus includes a terminating code providing part configured to forcibly provide a terminating code at a position before a code length position defined by header information, wherein a zone defined from the position at which the terminating code is provided to the code length position is determined as the off-rule zone. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations recited in original Claim 2. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants note that Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in Claim 2, which was indicated as allowable.

The '268 application is directed to a system for watermarking an image file that selects coefficients using a selection procedure, and assigns the selected coefficients to coefficient pairs. Further, the '268 application discloses that the difference between the coefficients is biased by a value that varies in a pseudo-random manner, and that the bias differences are used to generate signature bits that characterize the authentic image at different locations. As shown in Figure 5A, the '268 application discloses a watermarking unit that generates signature values that are formatted into the header.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '268 application fails to disclose a terminating code providing part configured to forcibly provide a terminating code at a position before a code length position defined by header information, wherein a zone defined from the position at which the terminating code is provided to the code length position is

determined as the off-rule zone into which the additional information is embedded.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and all similar rejected

dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Independent Claim 20 has been has been amended to recite an image processing

apparatus, comprising: (1) an inverse converting part configured to decompress, into image

data, a code stream generated as a result of converting image data into two-dimensional

wavelet coefficients, quantizing the coefficients, and coding the quantized coefficients; and

(2) an off-rule zone information reading part configured to read additional information

embedded in an off-rule zone in the code stream as a code, the off-rule zone being not

decoded according to a JPEG 2000 standard rule. Further, Claim 20 has been amended to

clarify that the off-rule zone is defined from a position at which a terminating code is

provided in the code stream to a code length position defined by header information.

Applicants respectfully submit that the changes to Claim 20 are supported by the originally

filed specification and do not add new matter.[1]

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 20 (and all similar rejected

dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 20.

As shown in Figure 5E, the '268 application discloses a raw signature verifier 348

that examines the embedded information in the code stream. However, Applicants

respectfully submit that the '268 application fails to disclose an off-rule zone defined from a

position at which a terminating code is provided in the code stream to a code length position

defined by header information, wherein an off-rule zone information reading part is

configured to read additional information embedded in the off-rule zone in the code stream,

wherein the off-rule zone is not decoded according to a JPEG 2000 standard rule, as recited

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[1] See original Claim 2.

in amended Claim 20. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 20 patentably defines over the '268 application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1 and 20 and the present cancellation of Claims 38 and 39.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 20 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '268 application.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.
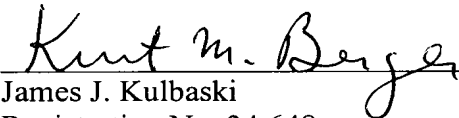
Respectfully submitted,

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